INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT WITH VOLUNTEERS
2011 PROJECT PROPOSAL - REGION 1
2/7/2011

Name of Project: Steigerwald Lake NWR - Invasive Plant Detection, Control, Monitoring and Replacement with Native Plants.

Refuge/Wetland Management District: Ridgefield NWR Complex – Steigerwald Lake Refuge.

Project Description: This project would maintain and expand annual invasive plant survey, control, & monitoring on Steigerwald Lake NWR. Early detection surveys, rapid response, large scale treatment, monitoring, and GPS data collection would be required annually to direct and focus strategies to reduce invasive plant threats to a 3-acre area of riparian forest along Gibbons Creek. This area is located east of a 2-acre area to be planted by the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership with 2010 CCS funds and a 4-acre area east of that with 2010 Invasives with Volunteers funds during the winter of 2010-2011. This will largely complete native planting shrubs and additional trees in the area along the southern Gibbons Creek shoreline. Invasives include Himalayan blackberry and reed canarygrass. Following herbicide and manual treatments by licensed volunteers to remove blackberry and canarygrass, native shrubs and trees will be replanted to reclaim areas held by blackberry, eventually providing canopy shade to reduce the invasives. This proposal is part of a multi-year effort to control invasives and plant woody vegetation in the riparian woodland along Gibbons Creek Volunteer crews, plant hunters and herbicide applicators will be used after necessary training in invasives control/native vegetation planting and the importance of riparian habitat restoration. To the maximum degree possible, funds will be obligated in FY 2011. Work will take place from Aug. 1, 2011 – Sept. 30, 2012, with most invasives control work occurring in 2011 and most native planting occurring in 2012.

Friends Groups, Volunteers and Other Partners: Columbia Gorge Refuge Stewards, Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, local service organizations, and citizen volunteers.

Public Outreach and/or Environmental Education: Volunteer events will be publicized through local newspaper and website resources, and e-mail mailings.. Outings will include field education regarding native habitats and invasive plant impacts. A flyer will be developed to post at local business and government establishments.

Pre- and Post-treatment Monitoring: Volunteers trained in GPS use will survey the project area and record invasives infestation (primarily Himalayan blackberry, with some Canada/bull thistle), recording data on size, location and status of occurrences prior to and after application of appropriate herbicides by trained/licensed volunteers. A report will be prepared prior to the final Invasives with Volunteers reporting date.

Criteria for Project Success: 3 acres of habitat will be surveyed. Reed canarygrass in the project area will be broadcast sprayed by certified refuge staff/volunteers, and all other invasives (primarily blackberry) will be sprayed with appropriate herbicides by licensed volunteers. After the vegetation is dead, it will be cut with a hydroax by refuge staff where possible, and with a

weedeater or loppers by refuge volunteers/staff. The project area will be replanted with native riparian trees and shrubs. An estimated 100 volunteers will be engaged as crews for invasives control and native vegetation replanting. 2 volunteer invasive plant hunters and 2 volunteer herbicide applicators have been trained for ED/RR, and recruiting efforts will be made to obtain additional volunteers. 540 volunteer hours are expected.

Budget:

Herbicides	$500.00
Native vegetation	$3,000.00
Supplies (Tubes, stakes, zip ties)	$3,500.00
TOTAL requested	**$7,000.00**

(Volunteer hours expected)	*(540)*